

Message Text

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USAEC:KREES

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJ: OECD-ACTION PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL
ASPECTS OF ENERGY GENERATION

REF: RODERICK'S LETTER OF JULY 17, L974 (ENV/D/261)

BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING THE JULY 1-3 MEETING OF THE OECD
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ENVIRONMENT
DIRECTORATE SHOULD COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS IN THE ENERGY
FIELD CLOSELY WITH THE OTHER RELEVANT OECD BODIES AND
SHOULD FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON A FEW CONCRETE PROJECTS.
RE THE LATTER THE MEMBER STATES WERE REQUESTED TO FORWARD
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THEIR SUGGESTIONS RE POSSIBLE PROJECTS TO THE SECRETARIAT

BY AROUND AUGUST 1. IN THE INTERIM RODERICK HAS CIRCULATED A LIST OF PROPOSED TOPICS UNDER A LETTER DATED JULY 17, 1974. USOECD IS REQUESTED TO FORWARD THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR USE IN PREPARING A REVISION TO THE SUBJECT ACTION PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1- WE HAVE DOUBTS WHETHER THE SECRETARIAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF A FURTHER MEETING WITH MEMBER STATE EXPERTS, WILL BE ABLE TO DEVISE A LIST OF RECOMMENDED CONCRETE PROJECTS ON WHICH THERE IS COMMON AGREEMENT. SHOULD THIS PROVE TRUE, RODERICK MIGHT WISH TO CONVENE AN EXPERT MEETING JUST PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER 11-12 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING TO GO OVER THE SUBMISSIONS HE HAS RECEIVED AND IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE FURTHER CONCRETE OECD WORK SEEMS WARRANTED. HE SHOULD ADVISE THE PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS SOON IF HE DECIDES TO CONVENE SUCH A GROUP.

2. PENDING THE IDENTIFICATION OF CONCRETE TASKS, WE FIND THE LIST ENCLOSED WITH THE JULY 17 LETTER TO BE ACCEPTABLE OVERALL EVEN THOUGH IT IS QUITE GENERAL IN CHARACTER. THUS, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS, WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO SEEING THE LIST INCLUDED IN THE REVISED ACTION PROPOSAL WHILE EFFORTS ARE MADE TO IDENTIFY MORE SPECIFIC PROJECTS.

3. THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS ARE CONFINED TO THE SECOND LIST INCLUDED IN THE JULY 17 LETTER:

A. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE REFERENCE TO MINING SHOULD BE CONFINED TO STRIPPING SINCE THIS EXCLUDES AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST AND COMPARISON ASSOCIATED WITH UNDERGROUND EXTRACTION.

B. RE ITEM 4 WE QUESTION WHETHER THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SHOULD BECOME DEEPLY INVOLVED IN ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF LARGE ENERGY FACILITIES AND SUGGEST THAT THE COMMITTEE CAN MORE PROFITABLY CONCENTRATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

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C. WE SUGGEST THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW CATEGORY AT THE END OF THE LIST: "IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS, DEVELOPING COMMON METHODOLOGIES AMONG MEMBER STATES FOR EVALUATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS, ENERGY SYSTEMS AND THEIR ALTERNATIVES."

4. IN CONSIDERING SOME MORE SPECIFIC IDEAS, DEPT IS

POUCHING TO USOECD SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES. THEY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. IN THE AREA OF COAL UTILIZATION THE OECD SHOULD ENCOURAGE A FULLER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO MINIMIZING ADVERSE EFFECTS OF EXTRACTION (BOTH SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND). THE OECD ALSO MIGHT FACILITATE DATA EXCHANGES CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF POLLUTANTS IN THE ORIGINAL ORES AS WELL AS THE TOTAL AND ELEMENTAL POLLUTANT BALANCES THAT ARE FOUND IN THE WASTE STREAMS FROM EXPERIMENTAL AND DEMONSTRATION TYPE COAL CONVERSION PLANTS.

B. RE OFF-SHORE PRODUCTION, THE OECD MIGHT FACILITATE PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR OIL CONTAINMENT AND CLEAN-UP PARTICULARLY FOR MULTINATIONAL DRILLING REGIONS. CONSIDERATION ALSO SHOULD BE GIVEN BY THE OECD TO THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY STANDARDS FOR OFF-SHORE DRILLING INSTALLATIONS.

5. MORE BROADLY, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE OECD SHOULD GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ORGANIZING SOME JOINT COLLABORATIVE R&D OR PILOT VENTURES WHERE THE PARTICIPATING STATES AGREE, AT MINIMUM EXPENSE TO THE OECD, TO COOPERATE IN ADVANCING SELECTED ASPECTS OF POLLUTION CONTROL TECHNOLOGY. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT RODERICK EXPLORE SUCH POSSIBILITIES WHEN HE MEETS WITH THE APPROPRIATE U.S. OFFICIALS, CHAUNCE STARR AND OTHERS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE U.S. FYI. WE ALSO ARE SOLICITING THE VIEWS OF BROOKHAVEN AND OTHERS CONCERNING POSSIBLE NEW OECD INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL DATA COLLECTION AND EXCHANGE. END FYI. KISSINGER

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